WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 7 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | NOVEMBER 1999

"When we are really honest with ourselves, we must admit that our lives are all that really belong to us. So it is how we use our lives that determine what kind of men we are. It is my deepest belief that only by giving of our lives do we find life." Cesar Chavez

Crossing the Line

In the Interest of the People

An oral history of Stephen Beck
Written by Megan Davis

The oral histories in the Crossing the Line series are the product of interviews with various social and environmental change activists in the Olympia area. After taping the interviews, Megan then transcribed and edited the subject's words, received input from the subject concerning the written results, and polished it up.

This month's subject is Stephen Beck, a 36-year-old activist who lives on Olympia's West Side with his wife, Erica. He grew up in Olympia, attended Evergreen as an undergraduate in the 80s, and is now an adjunct faculty member in philosophy at Evergreen. He is managing editor of The Green Pages, *and is involved with the Sustainable Community Roundtable.*

When I was at Evergreen I was not very politically active and I was pretty disillusioned by politics, partly because what was going on on the left at that point—I didn't find it particularly attractive... I remember listening to a protest about El Salvador, against the death squads. It was a protest of some American college students, and they were screaming in this kind of high, whiny voice, "We will not be disappeared! We will not be disappeared!" and I thought, you know, these are upper-middle class white kids saying this in the United States of America. They are in no threat of being disappeared. And it just sounds embarrassing to hear them say this... They were trying to make a statement through political theatre but... it wasn't authentic. It didn't really represent who these people were.

The politics of the Reagan revolution was something that appealed to just average people, people who didn't have a serious agenda of their own. And it spoke to them in their own language. I thought that it was pretty effective— to explain a political platform in terms that appealed to people's own interests... Ultimately, you need to have a political movement that is going to appeal to a broad base of people. Even if people don't necessarily understand all the details of the platform, at least they can see something in it that is going to fit with their own lives. My sense of the left radicalism of the 80s was that they weren't really making an effort to appeal to people in this country. They were more interested in making a statement... It's difficult because you want to build a political movement that is going to be in the interests of the vast majority of people... [but] it's not clear at the outset to most people that it's in their interests to be in favor of world social justice, because that kind of justice is going to mean most Americans are going to have to give up some of what they've got... So it is clear why a movement like the Reagan revolution would succeed, because they were basically saying, "Feel happy with what you've got."

What Is in People's Interests?

Is it really in people's interests to be in favor of social justice, in world equity?... I think it is. It's not necessarily in people's interests as they think of them... I'm saying this from personal reflection, from where I was in college and where I am now, and how I got to where I am now. What I've found in my life is that what is in my own interest has never been clear to me. It's clear that some things are in my interest and it's clear that some things are not in my interest, but then there's a lot of stuff that's really not clear.

What is, ultimately, in my interest? I want to live a good life, a life that's good for me. There have been times when I've thought, "Maybe I ought to just chuck this all— doing all this volunteer work, being in an activist community. Why don't I just go become a banker?"... Erica and I were just joking about this the other day. Why fight it? We could both earn lots of money doing some pointless jobs. We have the skills. But it's not something that is in the realm of possibility for us. It would be like deciding to be a samurai. It just isn't possible... It doesn't fit in with who I believe myself to be. It wouldn't be in my interest to live that kind of life. It would be ultimately degrading... I've found in my life, so far, that I have to be able to live with myself...

(Continued page 11)

The Case of Big Mountain

Venedel Herbito

The case of Big Mountain, Arizona (Black Mesa region) is one of the most current and vivid examples of the continuing genocide and colonization that marks the history of indigenous peoples on these lands known today as the "United States." The present exploitation occurring is the strip mining of Black Mesa located near the sacred Four Corners region in northeastern Arizona by Peabody Coal Company. Here lies the largest coal deposit in the United States, and possibly the world, holding approximately 21 billion tons of coal with an estimated value of $100 billion. Peabody Coal is determined to "cash in" and expand their strip mining operation regardless of the consequences of forced relocated facing the Dine (Navajo), traditional indigenous peoples of that region. Preventing such an operation is the continuing resistance by the Dine Elders and the support of outsiders.

In order to transport coal cheaply, Peabody Coal operates the only illegal slurry line in the United States. A slurry line is a mechanized process that grinds down large chunks of coal through a pipeline requiring enormous amounts of water to power the operation. For nearly 30 years, Peabody Coal's slurry line has pumped 1 billion gallons of water annually from the Black Mesa aquifer, the sole water source for the Hopi and Navajo peoples of the region. Within these past 3 decades, the irreversible environmental devastation has caused groundwater levels to decrease significantly, drying up the wells and springs – the drinking water for the Hopi and Dine - and altering

(Continued page 5)

INITIATIVE 695
Promotion of Democracy or Silliness?

by Frank Hoffman

There was a forum October 14 at the Olympia Community Center about I695, the initiative that lowers all vehicle license tab fees to $30.00 and requires a vote of the people on all new raises in taxes or fees. The forum was sponsored by The Olympian, KGY and TCTV. Tim Eyman spoke for the initiative and Secretary of State Ralph Munro and County Commissioner Kevin Sullivan spoke against it. Eyman had chosen to not have a co-supporter.

The largest single group in the audience at the Community Center was older, white men; followed in number by older, white women. I didn't see any people of color. There were a handful of people in the packed Center younger than 30.

Eyman, when asked to describe the initiative, said, "It cuts taxes"... and "No politician can take more of your money without asking you first." Part of Munro's response was that,"unpopular though it may be, the motor vehicle tax supports our transportation system."

Eyman said we spend 40% of our income in taxes: Munro said we spend per capita, 12% of our income in taxes.

When asked if the initiative is constitutional, Munro said," I don't know." Eyman said people like legislators would not oppose it if it is unconstitutional.

Eyman said 87% of the Republican Central Committee support the initiative. Munro said that is the same group that endorsed Pat Robertson for President.

Whoa! Who do you believe here? Whose side do you pick? Is Tim Eyman a champion of democracy and the little person? Is Ralph Munro the voice of reason, pleading for common sense? Tim Eyman, in response to questions, said his home is valued at close to a half million dollars and that he plans to buy an expensive, gas guzzling sport utility vehicle in January and only pay $30.00 in tab fees. Ralph Munro insisted on saying at the very end of the forum, despite the moderator saying they had run out of time, that he had just been to the funeral of murdered State Trooper Saunders, and that there were a thousand police officers from around the state at the funeral, and that is the number of police in the state that would have to be cut if the initiative passes.

Maybe someone should sue Eyman for silliness and cynicism. His initiative trivializes democracy, pokes fun at it. The rich benefit from it, the poor get hurt by it. The rest of us get trampled in the middle.

I sure didn't feel represented at the forum. And I'm amazed that voters could actually pass this initiative. Maybe cynicism and selfishness are more prevalent than I thought.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@ olywa.net

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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Margaret Love	Pat Tassoni
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Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Nov. 19th

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, November 23rd
6:30pm at Olympia Library

Everyone Welcome!

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Letters & Briefs

El Salvador 1999

with Dixie Reimer and Vicki Leonard

Friday, November 5th
7-9pm at Traditions Cafe

Dixie Reimer and Vicki Leonard are two local educators. They visited El Salvador last August on a delegation sponsored by Jose Alas' Foundation for Self Sufficiency. One major project the Foundation is supporting is a Local Zone of Peace in lower Lempa River region of El Salvador. In this region the peasants are cooperatively working to develop schools, find employment and environmental restoration processes. the community is working to provide healing from 12 years of civil war. This area was ravaged by flooding associated with Hurrican Mitch and the community was on the verge of recovering when they were hit by severe flooding from rains associated with Hurricane Floyd.

Dixie Reimer and Vicki Leonard will discuss their visit to the communities of El Salvador and will explore possible Olympia are responses to communities and people there. The event is free and open to the public. For more info casll Bob at 491-7050.

Obrador "Unplugged"

Friday, November 5 at 8pm
State Theatre, Olympia

Support the instrument drive for students of Guanaboacoa and support the cultural exchange between Pacific Northwest and Cuban communities. Attend and enjoy the special benefit concert. Obrador has been a long-time community favorite and for over twenty years have shared their love of Cuban music. Last year, they participated in an exciting cultural and educational exchange with musicians, teachers and students in Cuba. An impressive documentary began with the visit and the CD: "Obrador, Live in Havana." Here in our own community, Obrador shared their music and the documentary short with local students, and gathered a small shipment of instruments tp send back to Guanabacoa. Plans are being made to return to Guanabacoa. To support the Obrador Guanabacoa Project attent the benefit concert, donate an instrument and support this great happening. Tickets available by calling 786-0151.

Home for the Holidays: Beyond Survival

PFLAG's program explores the theme that "The Holidays" are a season of full emotions. This is especially true for many GLBT who feel like they can't bring their whole selves home for the holidays. At this meeting we can share suggestions for taking care of ourselves and hopefully expand our circle of family.

Sunday, November 14th at 2pm
First United Methodist Church
1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia

For more info call 866-0511 or olypflag@hotmail.com

Thurston County NOW

National Organization for Women November Program

Tuesday, Nov. 16th at 7pm
Tumwater Timberland Library

Video Showing of "Redefining Liberation" which talks about health hazards to women and girls posed by the advertising of tocacco, alcohol, and fashion industriesm, their creation of a beauty standard impossible to achieve and for which "fixing" is continually necessary. This is a free event. For more info call 943-3126.

Community Sustaining Fund Fall Grants

The Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County is pleased to announce the Fall grant funding cycle. Grant applications for environmental and social change projects are now available to groups and individuals interested in progressive community oriented activities. Grants will be considered up to $1,000. CSF semiannual grant funding is aimed at creating a more democratic, equitable, nonviolent, and ecologically sound society. CSF tends to award funds for start-up costs of projects that might otherwise go unfunded, but witht he expectation that these projects will become self sustaining. Grant funds are defived from contributing individuals and businesses.

(Continued page 15)

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NOVEMBER 1999

MEDICAL NEGLECT OF WOMEN IN US PRISONS

- **Women inmates suffering from treatable diseases such as asthma, diabetes, sickle cell anemia, cancer, late-term miscarriages, and seizures have little or no access to medical attention, sometimes resulting in death or permanent injury**
- **In 1994, the National Institute of Corrections stated that provision of gynecological services in prison is inadequate. Only half of state prison systems surveyed offer female-specific services such as mammograms and pap smears**
- **Long delays in obtaining medical attention, disrupted and poor quality treatment causing physical deterioration of prisoners with chronic and degenerative diseases, like cancer, and overmedication of prisoners with psychotropic drugs**
- **Prisons fail to deliver life saving drugs for inmates with HIV/AIDS**
- **The number of prisoners with histories of drug abuse is growing but the proportion of prisoners receiving treatment declined from 40% in '91 to 18% in '97**
- **In violation of international standards, many prisons/jails charge inmates for medical attention arguing that the charge deters prisoners from seeking medical attention for minor matters or because they want to avoid work.**

Source: Amnesty International USA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle, or the mirror that reflects it. **Edith Wharton**	**1** **1765** - The Stamp Act goes into effect **1950**- An assassination attempt against Pres. Truman by 2 Puerto Rican nationalists	**2** **1903**- Panama declares independence from Colombia **1906**- Leon Trotsky is exiled for life in Siberia	**3** **1896**: Idaho grants full suffrage to women by popular vote **1883**: Supreme Court rules Native Americans are aliens	**4** **1995**: 60 rally/march to Capitol in support of Leonard Peltier **1997:** 60% of Oregon voters vote to keep doctor-assisted suicide	**5** **1916**: Everett massacre: At least six wobblies killed **1930**: Sinclair Lewis wins Nobel Prize for his novel *Babbit*	**6** 1971: Underground nuclear test on Alaskan island Amchitka; Spartan warhead had yield equivalent of 5 million tons of TNT
7 **1997:** Gary Lawson begins 4-day vigil on Capitol Campus honoring Veterans' Day/vets mistreated by Dept of Veterans' Affairs	**8** **1975**: Charges against 8 Ohio National Guardsmen stemming from the 1970 Kent State tragedy were dropped in federal court	**9** **1998**: Female CEOs earn 68 cents for every $ earned by male CEOs **1998**: Sen. West sentenced to probation, apology and $750 fine	**10** **1998**: Clinton threatens air strikes that would cause "significant" reduction of military strength if inspections aren't allowed	**11** **1998**: Locke agrees to allow casinos to use "yet-to-be-created" electronic gambling **1998**: Clinton orders build up in Persian Gulf	**12** **1996:** Ernst Home Centers announces it will be closing all its stores in January 1997 laying off 60 employees in the Olympia area.	**13** *full moon* ● **1998**: Poll: 2/3s of W Wash approve return of gray wolf **1998**: Clinton reaches $850,000 settlement with Paula Jones
14 **1908**: Einstein presents quantum theory of light **1998**: 8 states including Washington reach $206 billion settlement with tobacco industry	**15** **1996:** Clinton announces that he will keep U.S. troops in Bosnia until June 1998 so that "the habits of peace can take hold."	**16** **1998**: Thurston and 15 other Washington counties sue Washington state for $5.3 million they have spent in enacting the Becca Bill	**17** **1998**: Interest rates go up for 3rd time in 2 months **1998**: Study reports well cooked beef and bacon causes 4 times the risk of breast cancer	**18** **1996**: County Commissioners authorize an additional $20,000 to be spent on short-term emergency for low-income veterans	**19** **1915**: Utah authorities kill Joe Hill by firing squad **1976**: Patty Hearst is freed on $1.5 million bond	**20** **1998**: State agrees to pay $5.5 million to former residents of the O.K. Boys Ranch for sexual and physical abuse
21 **1995:** The Dow Jones goes above 5,000 to 5,023.55, a new record **1998**: Clinton warns North Korea not to develop nuclear weapons	**22** **1998**: The FBI reports a continued sixth year drop in the crime rates; serious crime had fallen 3% from 1996 to 1997.	**23** **1998**: Dow Jones sets record; 9,374.27 points **1998**: Nisqually are granted free access to gather medicinal plants on Mt Rainier	**24** **1998**: Feds report worst drop in corporate profits in last 9 years **1998**: FDA: those w/ heart attacks or hypertension not use Viagra	**25** **1998**: Anacortes oil refinery blast kills five **1998**: Pinochet loses court battle for immunity to prevent extradition to Spain	**26** **1975**: President Ford announces his support for a federal bail out of New York City in the amount of 2.3 billion dollars	**27** **1998**: State Theater is reopened by Harlequin Productions **1998**: Metro bus plummets off Seattle bridge after driver is shot
28 **1909**- French Nat'l assembly offers women workers 8 weeks vacation after childbirth **1998**: Seattle's John Stanford dies	**29** **1975**: Legislation requiring states to provide free education for the handicapped from age 3 to 21 was signed by President Ford	**30** **1998**: Makah decide to go ahead with their gray whale hunt after hearing a proposal from whaling opponents	**"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest."** **Elie Wiesel**			

OCTOBER

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Up Front

"Race-Sensitive" and Proud of It

Jerome Johnson

Do we have what it takes to face the tough issues, like racism? Nothing will happen until we take a stand and admit we have a problem. We need to work together.

—Byron Williams Puyallup police chaplain, October 1999

As everyone knows, this has been a very intense summer for those of us targeted or otherwise affected by racism and bigotry. It started with Ben Smith's violence in the Midwest, with a smug and unrepentant Matthew Hale openly embracing racist terror. Buford Furrow continued when he went on a terrorist rampage in Los Angeles. Backdropped against these events was Berry's trial, the last in the James Byrd lynching, as well as McKinney's trial for the lynching of Matt Shepard. And earlier this fall, a white man was arrested in Tallahassee for calling in racist threats, then exploding two bombs on the campus of Florida A & M. Thank God, no one was injured or killed.

And while these events were happening on the national scene, things were happening locally. Before Laura Murphy organized September's Unity March, we heard reports of racist incidents at Puyallup High School. First we heard from black athletes, who reported racial epithets and having their lockers smeared with feces. Then there was the case of the white student who showed up for an official school picture in blackface, "as a joke." Most recently— and most serious—all African-American students received a phone-in death threat.

Well, I really don't give a damn. Given history and current events, you bet my life I'm race-sensitive.

But, according to many whites, us people of color and white progressives are accused of "blowing everything out of proportion" when we talk about these issues, demand action, and watch for action to be taken. Listening to many white people—common folks and commentators—we keep hearing these themes:

"Don't worry—that happened back East."

"Couldn't happen here—we wouldn't allow it."

"It was just one nut—it's not like it happens every day."

"It's just the work of a few—most people aren't bigots."

"They didn't really mean anything—they just were just kidding."

"We wouldn't have problems if the media didn't talk it up all the time."

"They aren't really racist; they just didn't know any better."

"OK, maybe there's a problem—but you gotta admit, there's racism on the part of blacks, too."

When we hear this denial, this bullshit, we get the usual icy clench in the gut. First we get disgusted, then mad, then busy in a positive sense. We get together for affection and support. Each time the chorus is the same: Stop the denial, admit the problem, and DEAL WITH IT. And when we take that message back to the larger white community, all too often we're told in condescending tones (meant to be soothing): "Relax. It's being worked on. How can you be so race-sensitive? Seems like you're just LOOKING for trouble!"

For centuries, people of color—and Jewish people—have been specifically targeted for racist violence. Right up to these current times, we—not white Gentiles—have been enslaved, mass murdered, forcibly relocated, raped, impoverished, beaten, vandalized, disenfranchised, dehumanized, robbed, lynched and otherwise violated.

They say "I'm race-sensitive."

Our churches, synagogues, schools and child-care centers are fire-bombed and shot up by racist terrorists.

But I'm told I'm race-sensitive.

Death threats called into and bombs explode in our high schools and colleges, we're terrified to send our children to school because someone like Furrow or Smith or McKinney might show up and we might not see them again.

Yet, we're told we're "race-sensitive."

Unlike white and Gentile parents, from early childhood through adulthood we have to teach our children everything we know, knowledge accumulated over centuries and passed down through families, about racism. Even if they do everything right, it won't protect them from the random terrorists who "suddenly lose it" after simmering in racism for years.

Still, we're told we're "looking for trouble."

Every time we leave the house—even for just a quick walk to the store—we see the unspoken prayer in the eyes of our loved ones: "Please God, let him/her come back all right."

However, we're "race-sensitive."

Well, I really don't give a damn. Given history and current events, you bet my life I'm race-sensitive. Especially considering the obscene irony shown by Klansmen in New York, who wanted to wear their masks because if it became known they're in the Klan, they "feared for their safety."

Is that so? Klansmen, afraid?

I think they're being just a little race-sensitive.

In East Timor, the UN and Interfet have their hands full.

In Colombia, a full-fledged civil war engulfs the country.

In Africa, a continent mourns the heroic Julius Nyerere.

And in Puyallup, a community works to end bigotry and hate. ♦

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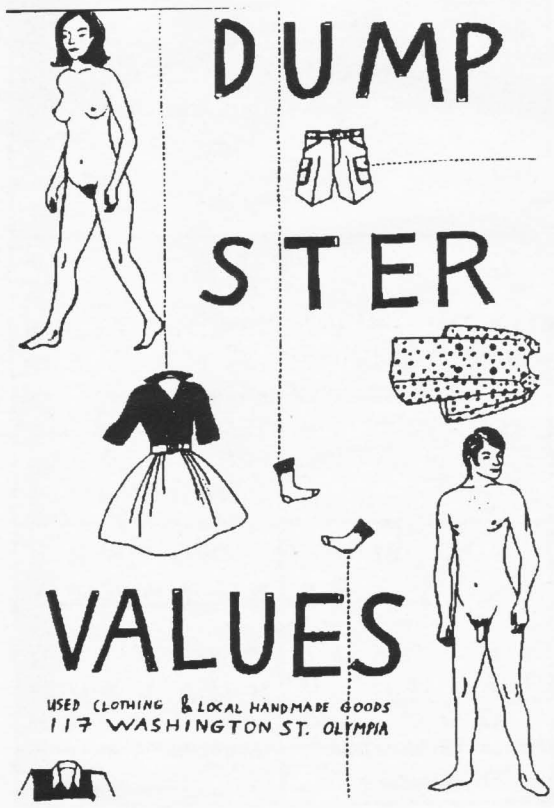

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(Big Mt., continued)

the general ecology of Black Mesa, i.e., eroding the land and eliminating the vegetation of the region.

The coal from Black Mesa has provided more profits for utility companies, under the umbrella name WEST (Western Energy Supply and Transmission): providing air conditioning for Los Angeles (Southern California Edison), neon lights for Las Vegas (Nevada Power), supplying water for Phoenix (Salt River Project), and power for Tucson. Due to the media blackout, it remains unknown to most people in the U.S. and the people inhabiting these major industrial and urban centers of the southwest that the cultural genocide and environmental destruction continues upon the lands and the people from which the energy comes from.

Despite clear evidence of Peabody's role and economic investment in the region, the current situation at Big Mountain is being reported by the mainstream media as a "centuries old inter-ethnic" dispute between the Dine and Hopis. Traditionally, both indigenous peoples co-existed in this area peacefully, sharing and exchanging the richness of their lands and cultures with each other. But today, profit-hungry companies are eager for the "black gold" that awaits them in this region. It is important to keep in mind that there is also a Hopi resistance against this continuing genocide and that once energy companies are done with the Dine in Black Mesa, the Hopi will surely be confronting similar toxic exploitation.

To date, over 12,000 traditional Dine people have been forced off their land, marking it as the largest 'relocation' since the late 1880's. The current tensions at Black Mesa – Big Mountain are escalating with the heightening confiscation of the Dine Elders' sheep, an essential element to the survival of the Dine and central to sustaining their traditional way of life. Recently BIA officials, in partnership with Hopi Rangers, are literally forcing elders from their hogans, the traditional home of the Dine, to confiscate their sheep and belongings, making these Dine elders "homeless."

The deadline for the Dine eviction off of Big Mountain is set for February 1, 2000. The traditional Dine and Hopi people are calling out to all people to demand an end to this genocide against their families and their traditional way of life. Please join us Friday evening on November 19th for a benefit to support their resistance because as traditional Dine elder and resistor Roberta Blackgoat explains, "The coal is the liver of the earth. When you take it out, she dies." Call us for more info if you would like to get involved or for information about the next meeting: Olympia Big Mountain Support Group- 360-705-0989

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
Write to:

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington DC 20500

Attorney Janet Reno
US Department of Justice
Constitution Ave & 10th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Bruce Babbitt
US Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

References: "The Black Mesa Syndrome: Indian Lands, Black Gold" by Judith Nies
http://www.orionsociety.org/nies.html
Illustration courtesy of Weaving for Freedom

♦

In 1974 the U.S. Government legally endorsed genocide when Congress passed Public Law 93-531, which enabled Peabody Coal Company to strip mine Black Mesa by uprooting the traditional Navajo and Hopi peoples from their land.

Indigenous Women's Poetry Night

A Benefit for the Dine Elders at Big Mountain

Friday, November 19 @ 7:30 p.m.
Bread & Roses Community Kitchen
114 Cherry Street, Downtown Olympia
Admission: $5.00 – $10.00 Sliding Scale

Featuring:

Chrystos

is a self-educated, indigenous poet, lesbian and activist of Menominee and Alsace-Lorraine ancestry. Her works include *Not Vanishing*, *Dream On*, *In Her I Am*, *Fugitive Colors* (Winner, 1994 Audre Lorde Poetry Competition).

Deborah Miranda

is a mixedblood woman of Jewish/European and Indian descent, and a registered member of the Ohlone-Costanoan Esselen Nation (California). Her first book of poetry, *Indian Cartography*, won her the Diane Decorah Memorial First Book Award from the Native Writers' Circle of the Americas.

Gail Tremblay

is of mixed ancestry with European and Okanagan backgrounds. A poet and installation artist, she has written *Indian Singing in the 21st Century* and co-edited several other literary works. She is a faculty at the Evergreen State College teaching creative writing and Native-American studies

Lisana Macias Redbear

is of Apache and Mexican ancestry. She is a singer, performance and multi-media installation artist. She is a long-time indigenous rights activist and supporter of the resistance at Big Mountain

Video Testimony by Dine Elder Roberta Blackgoat*

For more information, please call (360) 705-0989

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-Pauline Whitesinger, Dine Elder

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When is Enough Enough?:
A Reply to Frank Hoffman and Milton Poulos

Dave Zink

Frank Hoffman, in his article, "When would Enough be Enough?: Some Thoughts about Revolution", and Milton Poulos, in his letter, "U.S. Workers, Wake Up", published in the October issue of *Works in Progress*, raise some good points and questions.

First, why do many on the Left seem to feel a sense of urgency? Are we all just a bunch of alarmists? Perhaps some urgency is warranted. According to the Worldwatch Institute, hardly a bunch of radicals, "Time to get the world on a sustainable path is rapidly running out. We believe that if humanity achieves sustainability, it will do so within the next 30 years. If we have not succeeded by then, environmental deterioration and economic decline will be feeding on each other, pulling us down toward social decay... At such a point, reclaiming any hope of a sustainable future might be impossible." This is not a very joyous scenario. Capitalist business-as-usual driving this world to economic, social, and environmental collapse; and an ensuing nightmarish existence of poverty, violence, and repression for the vast majority.

Capitalism means competition, expansion, and domination. It seeks to convert nature into commodities, and to convert commodities into capital. We can avoid a world of misery, but we'll need a new economics that will promote cooperation, social and economic justice, conservation and sustainability. The good news is that the objective conditions for a cooperative society are in place. What's lacking is the subjective factor: a popular understanding of our situation and the will to transform society. Creating that critical mass is the primary challenge.

Frank asks for some clear thinking about where the struggle is at this time & where it is headed. I would answer that the struggle is now at a very low ebb, primarily because the general level of consciousness is not well-developed at this time. Why? For one thing, the vast majority of folks get their news and analysis from corporate-owned media, which is acting as a disinformation machine. As a rule, the dominant worldview of a society is that of it's ruling class. Rush Limbaugh and other reactionaries enjoy a hegemony over the airwaves. Progressive voices, like Jim Hightower, Jerry Brown, Michael Parenti, and others, are rarely heard. Hypercommercialism of the corporate media promotes hyperconsumption. Most people rarely, if ever, hear alternative and progressive viewpoints. There just aren't enough radio stations like KAOS, which has a signal so weak it fades away a few miles from Olympia, nor publications like *Works in Progress*.

In his article, Frank asks "Do we really want revolution?". He says that in the past, revolutions have only meant the transfer of resources and power from one relatively small group to another. Sounds like he is referring to coups d'etat. If that's all "revolution" means, then I, and probably most people in their right mind, would say "No Thanks".

But that's not what I mean by "revolution". So what **do** I mean? How about the replacement of the private, corporate ownership of the major means of production, distribution, and banking with social ownership under worker's self-management and democratic government? The transfer of decision-making power from absentee corporate owners back to the citizens whose lives and livelihoods are affected by those decisions? How about replacing the big corporations by a network of worker- controlled, community-owned and managed cooperatives?

Nor am I advocating violence. Revolution doesn't necessarily mean violence. To accomplish these changes, it would be far preferable to utilize peaceful methods, like workplace occupations, sit-down strikes, and other non-violent tactics, based on the methods of Gandhi or Martin Luther King whenever possible, and appropriate self-defense when necessary. The better organized the progressive forces are, the less violence will be necessary in the transformative process.

Change is coming. Corporate globalism is increasing the disparity between rich and poor countries, and between the rich and poor within each country. The World Trade Organization is probably the most powerful, secretive, undemocratic, and dangerous thing going today. Backed by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and free trade agreements, the WTO is paving the way toward one world plutocracy. At some point, sooner or later, people will start asking, "World government for whom, and whose benefit? The Trans-National corporate elite?". And many will say, and rightly so, "No Thanks!". To defend ourselves, we will need to fashion an effective global strategy for working people.

Frank asks some questions about values and what's likely to happen after a social revolution. Here's how I would answer them.

After the revolution:

- "Will Native American children grow up to be happy people connected to their roots?" I think that we could all benefit from a lessening of the advertizing blitz-induced rat race. We could all stand to get closer to our roots, and the real things of life.

- "Will the prison population plummet?" Probably, as poverty and alienation decrease. And as political prisoners are freed in the coming upsurge.

- "Will global warming stop?" This, along with all the other problems that capitalist business-as-usual has created, will take some time to fix, even if we stopped producing greenhouse gases immediately. But at least we could start the process of building a sustainable society, utilizing non-polluting solar energy. - "Will all of us be free?". Hmm. Free to do what? To speak our minds and pursue happiness? That's what I'm fighting for. Freedom to travel and live wherever we want? Sure. Freedom to make a profit by polluting drinking water? Nope. Freedom to sell dope on the corner? I don't think so . . . Freedom is individual control of individual destiny, and must be balanced with responsibility. This is the purpose of any decent social organization. This is what Marx, Kropotkin, and other great revolutionaries had in mind, and what a corporate society denies.

I would answer that, even a victory for a Labor Party (or even Mr. Poulos' Socialist Labor Party!) would not mean the immediate end of pollution, war, and other ills of our society.

Do I think that Marx and Kropotkin have already figured everything out? No. But these thinkers had insights that we can learn from and apply in general ways to our current situation. I would add a few other old-timers to Frank's list: Trotsky. Bukharin. Daniel DeLeon. Rosa Luxemburg. Eugene Debs. Nelson Peery.

In his letter, Milton states that "When workers win at the ballot box, there will no longer be pollution, wars, and the rest that the capitalist class has done in the name of competition and profit." I would answer that, even a victory for a Labor Party (or even Mr. Poulos' Socialist Labor Party!) would not mean the immediate end of pollution, war, and other ills of our society. How could it? Capitalism has created so many problems, it will take a while to clear them up. An electoral victory for a Labor Party could never happen in isolation. It will be accompanied by a revival in general consciousness, and a prevailing resolve to bring a real, living democracy to life. It will mean that we will finally be able to make a real start toward solving many serious problems.

Milton also says that "All wars are fought for markets, raw materials, and military spheres of influence. This is what starts wars. Nothing else." While this is certainly the underlying reason for most wars, a war can be touched off by any number of events in which a population is made to feel threatened. While World Wars 1 & 2 were fought for underlying imperialist reasons, our GI's fought and died to stop fascism and "make the world safe for Democracy". The master class always claims the loftiest motives to justify their wars, while the subject classes always fight the battles.

Frank began his article by asking, " When would enough be enough?". Perhaps we should ask the corporate master class that question. Average productivity of labor, as a result of technological advances & employees working harder and smarter, has increased 32% since 1980. But the increased wealth created hasn't been shared with working people. If the national minimum wage would have increased at the same rate as CEO pay, the minimum wage would now be $22.50 an hour, instead of $5.15.

Jobs with Justice, in its report "Working Hard, Earning Less", (see http://www.jwj.org) offers these statistics. Sun Health Care CEO Andrew Turner took home $12.6 million in 1997. The typical health care worker would have to work 812 years to match Turner's 1997 earnings. A Walgreen's cashier would have to work 217 years to match the 1997 pay of Walgreen's CEO C. Walgreen. A K-Mart clerk would have to work 423 years to match the 1997 pay of K-Mart CEO Floyd Hall. Clearly, those working the hardest are getting systematically ripped off.

In his article "Drifting Toward Plutocracy", in the October issue of the *Progressive Populist*, Chuck Collins writes: "Today, the richest 1% of the population of this country owns over 40% of all private wealth, more than the bottom 95% combined. When is enough enough? Should we wait until the top 1% owns 60% of all private wealth? What does this say about the values of our country when we have allowed the U.S. to become the most unequal industrialized country in the world? The money that is pouring to the top is urgently needed elsewhere. One in five U.S. children live in poverty. 16% of Americans have no health insurance. To compensate for lower real wages, working people are working longer hours, on average 148 more hours per year than in 1973. They are also getting deeper into debt." Wealth will continue to be systematically stolen from the producers, until enough people get tired of putting in the longest, and most productive, working hours of any industrialized nation - just so we can have the world's highest-paid CEOs. Sooner or later, the dog will get tired of being wagged by the tail.

I have a few questions for Frank, and any other readers that would care to tackle them. How can we ever hope to disempower the Trans-Nationals unless we stand up to them in an organized way? Does the increasing polarization of wealth not require a few corrective changes? Do you think that we should work within the Democratic Party, or should we build viable Labor and Green parties? ♦

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When Would Enough Be Enough?

Some Thoughts About Revolution -Part II

Frank Hoffman

According to a September 9,1999, article in The Olympian, Alan Greenspan, Chair of the Federal Reserve Board and therefore one of the most powerful people in government and of importance to contemporary capitalism in the world, is quoted as saying in a speech in Michigan, that it is critically important that "all Americans believe that they are part of a system they perceive as fair and worthy of their support."

Fair and worthy of their support. I believe that Alan Greenspan is saying if this perception is not the case, then people will withdraw their support of the current government and perhaps our system of government. Significant social unrest perhaps followed by revolution. During the Depression of the 1930's, a quarter of the workforce was on the streets, unemployed. The lives of most people in the country were touched by this depression. There was social unrest. Then World War 2 diverts our attention and saves the economy. When would enough be enough? What has to be the case before most people insist on change?

How is Fair defined and who defines it? Watch the news on TV. Read the papers. Visit a High School U.S. History class. Aren't all these women and men, these journalists, historians, producers, editors and teachers interested in facts and fairness? Or are they all brainwashed or timid?

How do we approach the meaning of Fair? The equity involved in the distribution of goods and resources or the results of the distribution? The relative amount of individual liberty or freedom? Are freedom and food bound together?

Between a fifth and a quarter of U.S. children are growing up in poverty. That has been the case for a long time. Is this o.k.? The distance between the rich and the poor in this country and between rich and poor countries is steadily increasing.

When would enough be enough? When half of our children are poor? When the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs causes minimum wage laws to go away? When the last tree has been cut and all the fish are dead? When we can't sleep at night because poor people all over the world are cursing our political economy because of what it is doing to their children? When there are tanks in our streets and there are more jails than churches?

Perhaps the reasoning goes that three quarters of our children are not poor. It's o.k. that the rich are taxed proportionately less than the poor because maybe most of us have cable TV.

Or perhaps we know that if there is "social unrest" it is our asses getting kicked, one way or another. We don't have food. Our kids go to jail. The lights go out. (No cable TV)

Or what is, despicable though it might be, more real to us than what could be.

Our freedom and the responsibilities that come with it are downright scary. Better to have somebody else or the system to blame for all this inequality and mayhem.

What is meant by Fair? By Justice? By Freedom? Well, you could say, if you don't know, don't ask and stop trying to confuse those of us who believe we know or who don't think the questions are important.

If most people in the country are not concerned with these questions, then significant change, if that happens, will occur through violence and many people will be hurt or killed. If a quarter of the people in the country believe that our political economy is corrupt and fundamental change is necessary, that change will occur. Particularly if people are talking to each other publicly about the perceived lack of fairness. And about how our political economy requires unfairness.

If the activists believe the people are mindless sheep, we are all doomed. Perhaps doomed to terror from one group or another. It doesn't really make any difference how the groups are composed or what their mission statements sound like. If most people believe that things are o.k., then maybe the leftist activists should become artists or shamans or focused and unapologetic reformers. What do you think? ♦

THE SPIRIT v.s. GLOBALIZATION

Will the U.S. Implode Like The U.S.S.R.?

Frank Hoffman

A talk by Cowlitz Tribal member, Dr. Rudolph Ryser, presented by the Center for World Indigenous Studies, as part of a workshop at the TESC Longhouse, October 15, 1999.

Dark begins to fall between the trees at dusk across from the meadow in front of the Longhouse. White horsetail clouds above in a blue sky. The air turning cold quickly on an autumn night. Inside, the odor of cleansing sweetgrass is carried on the air by the sound of a cedar flute.

The Center for World Indigenous Studies, "is an independent, Indian controlled non-profit 501(c)3 research and education organization.It is dedicated to wider understanding and appreciation of the ideas and knowledge of Fourth World peoples, and the social, economic, and political realities of their nations" (according to one of its flyers). It has offices in Mexico, Canada and here in Olympia. Dr. Ryser is one of its founders. He has published four books and several papers. The title of his talk was, "Collapsing States and Re-emerging Nations." (This is not a transcript of his talk, but my report on it.) Diversity enriches us. We pretend that everybody is exactly the same. That is not true. The differences are beautiful. We dress and behave differently. We cherish and worship differently."We are similar and different - what a great problem!"

Human beings, contrasted to other animals, have to learn how to be human beings. Trees and most animals don't have to learn how to be what they are - they know. So people should be humble: we are ignorant. Different cultures teach different ways of relating to each other and to the world. Some cultures teach control of the world, others are amazed at the wonder of it.

The first cities were built to protect the people in them from outsiders. The people inside, however, might be a diverse group. The City became the State. There are now 192 States in the world. On the earth everywhere except Antartica.

The State is an idea, a way of organizing and controling. In contrast,a Nation has a culture - an understanding of how people relate to each other, to their environment and to the cosmos. Many people are not aware of the Nations around us - the Squaxin, the Chehalis, the Skokomish. These Nations are composed of peoples indigenous to a place on the earth. Dr. Ryser has said for some time that these States will implode and disappear. His academic peers laughed at him saying that the U.S. or the U.S.S.R. could disappear. When the USSR disappeared, a colleague who had been a Russia expert asked how he should refer to himself after the USSR collapsed. Dr. Ryser responded, "An historian."

The idea of the modern State came out of the expansion of Christianity in Europe. States are in many ways similar to corporations. Their methods of control are similar, for example. Since 1980, the United States and Great Britain began liberalizing government restraints on corporations so the corporations could be supra national - global. They are no longer accountable to States. Corporations have their own military forces and control land in ways similar to governments.

Organized religion has also become international and not accountable. They compete for power and control They are everywhere and not identified with place.

There are 6000 Nations, 192 States, countless global corporations and religions and uncloaked organized crime. The world has always been a little crooked, a bribe here, a gift there to smooth things along. Now organized crime is beginning to run whole countries and is becoming more visible. All these global actors are impacting our lives, all the time. Right now.

The Fourth World Nations, the undeveloped nations, are now receiving attention from all these global actors, because they are undeveloped. These global forces have set up the rules for this new round of "development."

The Convention on Bio-diversity set up ways "wild" knowledge could be transfered to corporations. The General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) is the implementation tool for the Convention on Bio-diversity. The 6000 Nations have not been included or involved in the Convention, GATT or the WTO. They have not been invited to the table.

Those Nations are now at war. Today. This minute. These wars are not about ideology; they are about ways of knowing and living. If the Nations win, we will all have a future. ♦

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Dean Hirsch, Equal Opportunity Compliance Specialist
Lauren Walker, Fair Housing Center of South Puget Sound
Bill Crabtree, property owner
Anna Schlecht, Moderator

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Stay Granted, But Work Still Continues

Use this information to EDUCATE. Continue to DEMONSTRATE.

URGENT! Mumia wants ALL letters to Judge Yohn on his behalf sent directly to Leonard Weinglass so that ALL the letters can be handed over to the Judge when Mumia goes to court. Mumia and Leonard Weinglass have asked that we do NOT demonstrate on Judge Yohn.

While legal experts say that even though the stay is granted, the appeal could take several years, the process could also move much faster. Much depends on Yohn's rulings in these crucial early days of the appeal. Yohn can deny a hearing and decide the case on the trial records, appellate briefs and lawyers' arguments.

Suggested points to include:

~~1) We want the judge to grant a stay of execution on the death warrant set for Dec. 2, 1999 signed by Governor Ridge on October 13, 1999.~~ **GRANTED!!!!**

2) We want Yohn to grant an evidentiary hearing to examine the substantial evidence of Mumia Abu-Jamal's innocence, i.e. witnesses who have testified in PCRA hearings that they were coerced by police to change their testimony; that his trial lawyer failed to aggressively defend the case, did not investigate, or obtain crucial experts in pathology or ballistics; that police planted evidence and intimidated witnesses; and that Common pleas Judge Albert Sabo displayed bias and hostility toward Abu-Jamal and should have recused himself.

3) Misconduct on the part of the city prosecutor who impermissibly challenged the seating of 11 of 15 prospective African American jurors because they were African American.

4) That there have been 29 purported violations of Abu-Jamal's constitutional rights.

5) That Abu-Jamal has maintained his innocence and has been denied the right to a fair trial.

Send the letters to
Judge William Yohn, Jr.
c/o Leonard Weinglass
6 West 20th St., Suite 10A
New York, NY 10011
Honorable William H. Yohn, Jr.
United States District Court
2609 US Court House
601 Market St.
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Phone: 215-579-4361
Fax: 215-597-6390

Contact: International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal
phone: 215-724-1618 fax: 215-476-7551

All financial contributions should now be made out to: "National Black United Fund/Mumia" and mailed to
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(Indicate whether contribution is for "legal" or for "organizing.")

Local: Olympia Mumia Defense Council holds regular meetings Thursday at 7pm and Bread & Roses, 114 Cherry St., Olympia. For info call 705-2675.

The WTO and Mumia Abu Jamal

By Michael Albert

The World Trade Organization treats working people in countries throughout the world as assets to manipulate in pursuit of private corporate profit. From Guatemala to South Africa and from Thailand to the South Bronx, this causes impoverishment, illness, and even mass starvation. We need change, yet we cannot civilly persuade people who regard us as a target for exploitation, manipulation, or repression that they ought to prevent the pain their policies cause us on humanitarian grounds. Instead, to get change from them, we need to raise social costs until they see that maintaining their policies will cost them so much that they must relent.

Movements to raise social costs, however, come in two broad types. (1) They can fight for immediate reforms, such as reversing WTO policies, as ends in themselves with no further aspirations, and taking as given the underlying relations of the economy. (2) They can fight for the same immediate reforms, but seeking to empower constituencies to create lasting infrastructure and organization and to raise consciousness and commitment, all leading to transforming underlying relations.

There are many differences between these approaches, but I want to make a single, simple proposal that I hope both wings of anti-WTO activists will find congenial: WTO activists should address WTO and economic hardship and oppression, of course - but also Mumia Abu Jamal's incarceration and pending execution.

The U.S. is hell-bent on killing Mumia in large part to make a powerful statement about the efficacy of repression. Mumia does not deserve to die. Moreover, activists should not sit idly by while repression is legitimated. For both these reasons, sincere advocates of social justice will work to save Mumia Abu Jamal just as they will fight exploitative globalisation. The only way to save Mumia, however, is to raise social costs sufficiently to force a new trial. But to raise social costs requires activism -- and activism is what Seattle is about. The anti-globalisation movement is big, visible, and recently relatively rich in assets. What an opportunity it has to reverse one of the most damaging attributes of contemporary movements - their parochialism and single-issue narrowness.

It isn't that every movement needs to enunciate all demands of every other movement all the time. Of course not. But it should be obvious to all, it seems to me, that prospects for winning major gains on a grand scale -- and we should be clear that turning back international trade agendas or U.S. domestic repressive agendas are, in fact, major gains on a grand scale — are enhanced rather than reduced by building solidarity among movements and especially by bridging long standing gaps and even chasms. At this moment Mumia and the WTO are arguably the two most pressing focuses of political activism in the U.S. Neither is peripheral in any sense. To have many members of each of these movements openly support the aspirations of the other would go a long way to creating trust and broadening consciousness in both cases, and to communicating to elites that their policies are having still another effect they can't afford - uniting opponents of injustice. More, all indications so far are that in the U.S. WTO organizing is being done, overwhelmingly, by white activists. So in addition to the general benefits of mutual support, we have the possibility of a largely white-led movement taking the initiative in expressing solidarity with the Black community over preventing the execution of a very prominent black political figure. Imagine that Ralph Nader or Noam Chomsky was awaiting execution. Would their plight enter the consciousness and visible manifestations of the folks going to Seattle? Then so should Mumia's.

The anti-WTO forces can in one simple act of inclusion communicate that struggles for justice are necessarily interconnected and mutually worthy. They can teach that winning valuable gains in any venue requires raising social costs so high that it cannot be accomplished without diverse constituencies from many venues joining the effort. To either overcome WTO plans or to free Mumia it is necessary to unite and fightso let's do both. What an opportunity for a largely white-organized project, at least in the U.S., to evince solidarity with a Black activist and a Black-led movement.

The only way to save Mumia, however, is to raise social costs sufficiently to force a new trial -- and activism is what Seattle is about.

What we have in Seattle is an opportunity for better communication and better activism. We need to seize the opportunity. We need to recognize that social change legitimately and understandably bubbles up in many forms and with many agendas, but that ultimately it's all about the same damn thing: winning justice.

Go to Seattle or bring the spirit of Seattle to your locale. Add to Seattle Mumia, and add to Mumia Seattle. As Mumia writes: "Conventional wisdom would have one believe that it is insane to resist this, the mightiest of empires.... But what history really shows is that today's empire is tomorrow's ashes, that nothing lasts forever, and that to not resist is to acquiesce in your own oppression. The greatest form of sanity that anyone can exercise is to resist that force that is trying to repress, oppress, and fight down the human spirit."

If Mumia can practice solidarity and mutuality from death row, surely we can do as much from outside.

Recent Developments in the Case of Mumia

THE DEATH WARRANT On Wednesday, October 13, Governor Thomas Ridge signed a new death warrant for Mumia, setting December 2 for his execution. Ridge did this knowing full well that Mumia was about to file his major appeal in the federal courts in a matter of days. This is the same stunt that Ridge pulled in 1995, when he rushed to sign a death warrant on the last business day before Mumia was to file his motion for a new trial in the state court. So we will not be intimidated by this publicity stunt.

Ridge has now signed 176 death warrants, and he is the first U.S. governor to sign death warrants for 100 African -Americans. The new state motto ought to read: "You have an Executioner in Pennsylvania." The record in Philadelphia is even worse: 49 of the last 51 death sentences in Philly have been given to people of color.

THE NEW APPEAL On October 15, Mumia's legal team filed a petition for a "writ of habeas corpus." This is the standard way to begin an appeal in the federal court system. This document is dynamite! It is over 160 pages, 675 paragraphs, documenting 29 violations of Mumia's constitutional rights (the full text will be available on the Internet for all to read). These violations include the suppression of evidence by the police and prosecutors, the coercing of witnesses, the fabricated "confession" story, the suppression of documents about police surveillance of Mumia, the ineffective defense lawyer in Mumia's first "trial," how Mumia was not allowed to represent himself, how Mumia was barred from the courtroom in his own trial, the state using 11 peremptory challenges to knock African-Americans off the jury, no real money for defense experts, how Sabo would not allow embarrassing questions to prosecution witnesses, how the court was told that a key witness was unavailable on vacation when in fact he was sitting at home, and how the prosecutor used Mumia's revolutionary political writings as an argument to the jury that he should be executed.

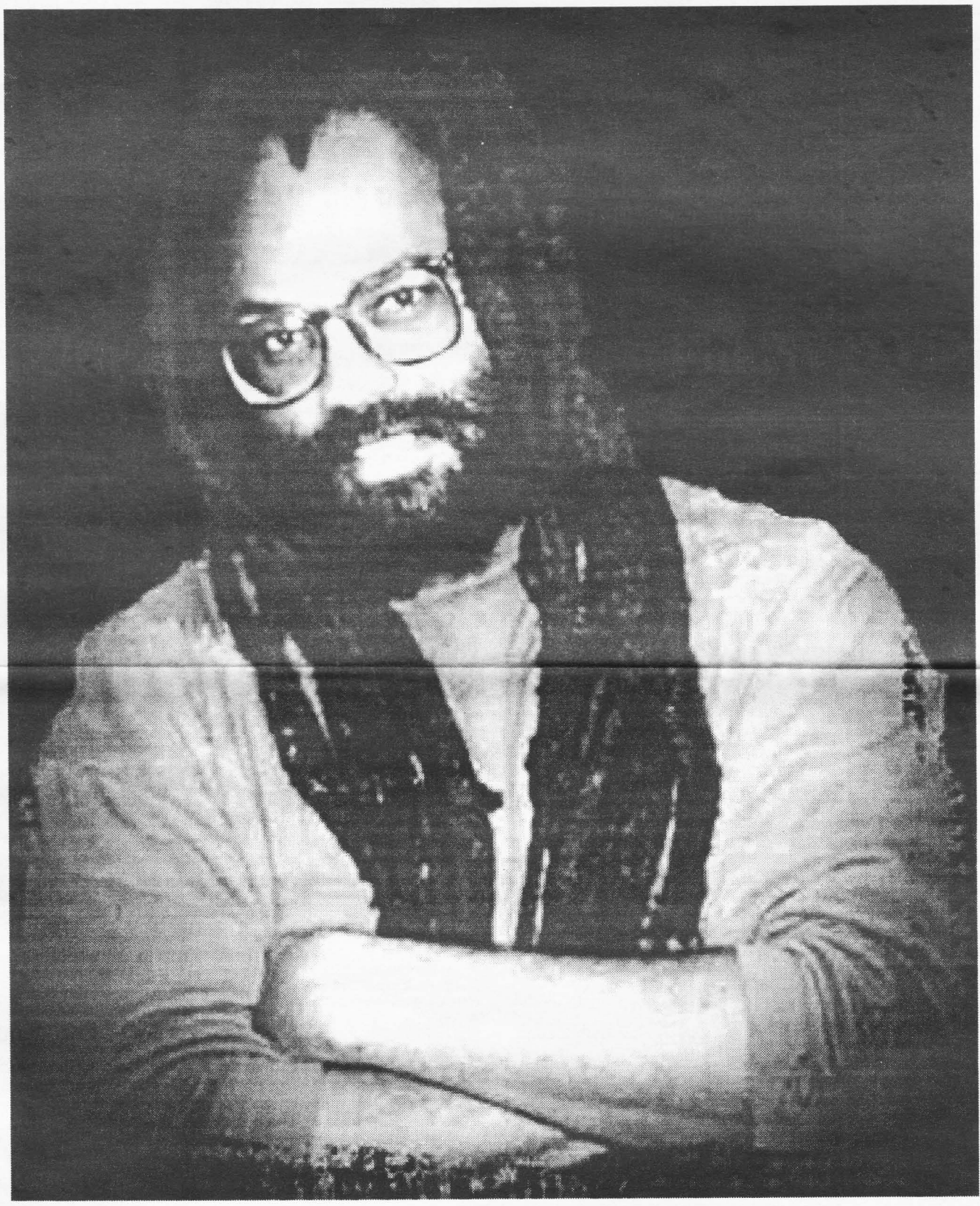
THE DEMAND FOR A HEARING Mumia's new petition to the federal court asks for a hearing in the federal court to bring in the witnesses and evidence that were denied to Mumia in the Pennsylvania courts. Getting this hearing is critical, because it will be both the first time that Mumia can bring out this evidence, AND it will be the last chance to do so. If Mumia is denied a hearing in federal district court, that would mean that all future appeals will be based on the "evidence" as allowed and interpreted by Judge Sabo! Only a new hearing can get the real facts on the record. But the 1996 Effective Death Penalty Act was designed precisely to make it hard for federal judges to grant new hearings. This is a virtual repeal of the right of habeas corpus and a throw back to the days of white-supremacist "states rights."

THE F.O.P. From Day One, the Fraternal Order of Police has tried to interfere in the judicial process. This began with the F.O.P. writing to a judge in 1982 to oppose bail for Mumia, through the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on which five of the seven justices are endorsed by the FOP and brag on their web site about how many FOP awards they have received. The FOP has tried to coerce supporters of Mumia such as the Rage Against the Machine concert, the graduation ceremony at Evergreen State College, and the Black United Fund. Today, Mumia is the only death row prisoner in the U.S. who is the target of a nationwide campaign to demand his execution, and the FOP has now announced that they are organizing a boycott of every performer and business that supports justice for Mumia.

BUILD THE MOVEMENT The movement is continuing to grow! In response to Ridge's outrageous death warrant, statements have poured in from all over the country, including already protest statements from Amnesty International, Rev. Jesse Jackson, and the Congressional Black Caucus.

We have know reached a new stage in the movement. Hopefully, in a few weeks Mumia will be present in court in Philadelphia for a hearing on this new appeal. This should be the occasion for a mass demonstration in Philadelphia, bringing people from all over the country. Then, on December 11, regional demonstrations in Philadelphia, Chicago, and San Francisco.

EVERYONE DESERVES A FAIR TRIAL



FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL!

What You Should Know About the WTO

Tuesday, NOV. 9th at 7pm
OLYMPIA COMMUNITY CENTER, ROOM A
Olympia Avenue and Columbia Street

The legislation that made the United States a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) was passed by the US Congress using a "fast track" process resulting in a complete lack of public debate and information. After the last few years, we know why labor, environmental, and human rights laws passed by any national government (including the US) can be challenged and overturned by corporations because they "interfere with free trade" under the WTO agreements.

On November 30 Boeing CEO William Condin and Microsoft CEO Bill Gates will host a meeting of WTO representatives in Seattle that is closed to the public. Although we aren't invited to attend this exclusive affair, labor and environmental groups will be demonstrating to educate the public about the danger to our jobs, our communities, and the environment caused by the WTO.

Please join us at the Olympia Community Center for a forum to learn more about the WTO and to help us organize buses from the South Sound to the November 30 demonstrations in Seattle.

Speakers include:

- Tom Bernard, President, Thurston Lewis Labor Council
- Michael MacSems, Olympia No to WTO
- Lucilene Lira Whitesell, Field Organizer for Labor Center, Former Brazilian Export Zone Process Worker
- Paul Pickett, President of the Ecology Chapter of the WPEA

Co-sponsored by: South Sound Labor Party, Washington Federation of State Employees Local 443, Thurston-Lewis Labor Council

WTO Calendar of Events

by People for Fair Trade / Network Opposed to WTO

http://www.seattlewto.org/calendar.html
http://www.seattle99.com
Toll free (877) STOP WTO.
Email: events@peopleforfairtrade.org

Sun Oct 31

1:00 p.m. **Regional Direct Action Network** (DAN) meeting Location: Univ. Baptist Church, 12th Ave NE and 47th NE St. Info: (206) 632-1656

Mon Nov 1

Int'l Day of Action against WTO's assault on forests For information, contact: Robin Denburg, Asian Pacific Enviro. Exchange, denburg@u.washington.org or (206)324-5675.

Mondays, Nov 1 - Nov 22

7-8:30pm **"A Woman's Guide to the WTO"** to explore the role of the WTO and its impact on the working conditions, social roles, health and progress of women internationally. UW, Ethnic Cultural Center, Native American Room. Contact: Anne Slater at (206) 722-6057

Fri Nov 5

3:30 p.m. UW chapter of People for Fair Trade / Network Opposed to WTO general meeting at HUB (student union bldg.)

Sat Nov 6

9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. **NO!WTO Student Teach-In** with educational and action workshops, music and other performances, food, and more! at Seattle Central Community College. Info: Lydia or Jeremy S., (206) 770-9044
Seattle Education Association Teach-In on the WTO Info: (206) 587-2916

Sat Nov 13

November Film Series: "Junk APEC/Gulf War". Location, Tickets and info: (206) 763-9611

Sat Nov 20 — Sun Nov 28

Action/Street Theater Convergence. Workshops, training, coordinating by Direct Action Network. Info: (206) 632-1656

Sun Nov 21

1:00 pm **Free or Fair Trade?** at East Shore Unitarian Church. Info: Jess @ (425) 747 3780

Tues Nov 23

Benefit concert for People for Fair Trade / Network Opposed to the WTO at Tractor Tavern, Ballard. Info: (206) 770-9044, toll free (877) STOP WTO.

BUY NOTHING DAY

Fri Nov 26

International Forum on Globalization (IFG) Teach-In at Benaroya Symphony Hall, 200 University St. (downtown Seattle) Info: 415/771-3394
November Film Series: Pressure Point about the Montreal Blockade of the MAI. Location, tickets and info: (206) 763-9611

Sat Nov 27

IFG Teach-In (Day Two) with Vandana Shiva, Maude Barlow, Lori Wallach, et al. at Benaroya Symphony Hall, 200 University St. (downtown Seattle) Info: 415/771-3394

MINISTERIAL WEEK

All Week Fair Trade Fair at Seattle Town Hall, 1119 8th Ave., Seattle (8th & Seneca) Info: Global Exchange (415) 255 7296 x245

Nov 28-30

People's Assembly/March-Rally at Filipino Community Center, 5740 ML King Jr. Way. Info: (206) 763-9611, passembly@yahoo.com
1-4 pm **Alternatives Conference** at Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave Seattle. Info: Dave Lewitt, Alliance For Democracy (617) 266 8687
People's Tribunal at Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave, Seattle
Gathering of Int'l Biotech activists. Info: Gabriela Flora (612)870-3417
Forum on WTO and Global War System. Info: Steve Staples, Council of Canadians, (604) 688-8846, sstaples@randomlink.com
7-10pm **Yes! Magazine/Positive Futures** Private Reception at Elliot Bay Bookstore, 1st S & S Main, Seattle. Info: Fran Korten, Yes! Magazine, (206) 842-0216
7:30 p.m. **Jubilee 2000 Prayer Service** at St. James Cathedral, 9th & Marion, Seattle by WA Assoc. of Churches. Info: (206) 625-9790

Mon Nov 29

Peoples Assembly March and Rally Continues
8:30 am - noon **Environment & Health** at 1st United Methodist Church, 811 5th Ave, Seattle. Info: Dan Seligman (environment), Sierra Club, (202) 675 2387, dan.seligman@sierraclub.org. Mary Bottari (health) mbottari@citizen.org.
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **European Union Trade Forum** at Space Needle by Seattle Host Organization. Info: (206) 352-9020, northwest@wtravelers.com
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **Time to Talk: Forums on Race Series** at Sheraton Hotel and Towers by Seattle Chamber of Commerce. Info: hermanm@seattlechamber.com
12:00-1:00 p.m. **Seattle Tea Party**
4:30 p.m. **Interfaith Gathering, Procession, and "Human Chain"** to call for the definitive cancellation of the debt of the worldís poorest countries Begins at First United Methodist Ch., 5th & Columbia, Seattle; procession to join hands around Exhibition Center, S. Royal Brougham St., by WA Association of Churches. Info: (206) 625-9790
6-10pm **International Solidarity Night** at Filipino Community Center Hall, ML King Jr. Way S., Seattle. Songs of Struggle, Words of Action and Dance of Resistance against WTO and imperialist globalization
7:00-10:00 p.m. **African Day Business Forum** reception at Piggott Hall, Seattle Univ. at Info: (206)956-3181, pgishuru@aol.com

Tue Nov 30

All day: **Civil society's Labor Rights, Human Rights, and Standards of Living Day**
All day, everywhere, **International Day of Action**
TBA **Mass nonviolent direct action.** Info: Direct Action Network, (206) 632-1656
8:00 am **Youth Caucus Assembly/March-Rally** at Filipino Community Center, Corner MLK Jr. Way S. and Orcas St., Seattle
10:00 am **People's Assembly/March-Rally** at Meet at the Filipino Community Center, Corner of MLK Jr. Way S. and Orcas St., Seattle. March 4.5 miles to downtown Seattle at 10:30 am
8:30 am - 12:00 p.m. **Labor Rights & Living Standards/NGO Panels** at 1st United Methodist Church, 811 5th Ave., Seattle. Info: marianne@citizen.org.
8:30 am-12:00 p.m. **WTO & Human Rights** at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 911 Stewart St., Seattle by Peoples Decade of Human Rights Education. Info: Shula Koenig, (212) 749 3156
10 am- 12:30 pm **Labor Rally** at Memorial Stadium. Info: AFL-CIO
12:30-3 pm **March on the WTO.** Route TBA. Info: AFL-CIO
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. **European Union Trade Forum** by Seattle Host Organization
7-8:30 pm **Debate**: Sponsored by Public Citizen, Int'l Forum on Globalization and The Nation at Seattle Town Hall, 1119 8th Ave, Seattle. Info: Jerry Mander, IFG (415) 771 3394.

Wed Dec 1

7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. **Press breakfast on resolving tensions between trade & environment** by Global Environment & Trade Study at Renaissance Hotel. Info: Susan Wueste, susan.weuste@yale.edu
8:00-10:00 a.m. **African Day Business Forum.** Info: (206) 956-3181, pgishuru@aol.com
8:30 am-5:30 pm **Women, Democracy, Sovereignty, and Development** at United Methodist Church. Info: Alexandra Spieldoch, aspieldoch@coc.org
8:30 am **No Patents on Life: Biotech in the Global Economy** All day forum on patents on life forms at Plymouth Congregational Church. Contact: Phil Bereano (206)543-9037, phil@uwtc.washington.edu, sdonahoe@u.washington.edu
10:00 am-12:30pm **Science and the Precautionary Principle in the Trading System** Sponsors: Inst. for Sustainable Development, Royal Inst. for Int'l Affairs
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. **NGO discussion of TRIPS** at Madison Hotel. Info: James Love, love@cptech.org, (202)387-8030
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **European Trade Forum: Genetically Modified Products, Nat'l Sanctions, British Beef & American Hormones.** Info: David Hughes, Pres. Hungarian Chamber of Commerce, (425)481-3669, hacofc@aol.com
3:00-5:00 p.m. **"Selling the Story: Taking the WTO Back to Your Campus"** by Center for Environmental Citizenship. Info: 728-1563, cecnw@envirocitizen.org
Party with other Activists at the Speakeasy After "Selling the Story" at Speakeasy Internet Cafe, 2304 2nd Ave. All ages welcome. Sponsored by Campus Green Vote, WashPIRG, STARC, the Sierra Student Coal., Center for Campus Organizing & Campus Greens-Univ of WA.

Thurs Dec 2

8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. **Food and Agriculture: Food Safety and Security** at United Methodist Ch. Info: (612) 870-0453, rvanstaveren@iatp.org
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. **European Union Trade Forum**
10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. **The Americas, Regional Trade Agreements and the WTO** at Northwest Rooms, Seattle Center. Info: (206) 956-3131, (206) 296-7421
6:30-10:00 p.m. **India, Trade Opportunities, and the WTO** by Indo-American Friendship Forum. Info: (425) 489-0510, jagdish.p.sharma@boeing.com

Fri Dec 3

8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. **Corporate Accountability: "Who Rules?"** at Gethsemane Lutheran Ch. Info: Mike Dolan, (202) 454-5122, mdolan@citizen.org
10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **The Kyoto Protocol and the WTO**
11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. **European Union Trade Forum**
10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. **Salute to Small Business & Asian-Pacific Trade / WTO Week-In-Review / Seattle Host Org. Finale** With speakers from USG, SHO, US Trade Rep., WA Gov. Gary Locke & King Co. Exec Ron Sims at Westin or Sheraton Hotel. Info: Damian Cordova, (206) 553-7170, damian.cordova@mail.house.gov

Sat Dec 4

Women Workers in the Global Economy by Northwest Labor and Employment Law Office (LELO). Info: (206) 860-1400

Workers of Color Organizing Around the WTO

In response to the lack of participation from various marginalized communities in the area with the WTO organizing efforts, the Northwest Labor and Employment Law Office (LELO) has spearheaded a coalition to organize around issues of the WTO outreaching specifically to workers of color, women, and unorganized workers.

LELO is a multi-racial workers organization based in Seattle with a 25 year history of organizing workers of color. Their tradition of labor organizing carries a rich history of cross-cultural alliances between Mexican agricultural workers, Asian cannery workers, and Black construction workers.

Since early October, they have been meeting regularly with community members and various organizations in Seattle such as WAIRJ (Washington Alliance for Immigrant and Refugee Justice), CISPES (Committee in Solidarity with the People in El Salvador) to plan an international workers conference focusing on "Women, Immigration, and Globalization" on Saturday, December 4, 1999, following the WTO ministeral meetings. This is a rare and significant opportunity for workers' voices to be heard and for workers and community members in the surrounding to engage in discussions with workers from other countries.

LELO is inviting 6-8 workers from various parts of the globe that represent different industries to come and speak about the conditions in their workplaces. The following is a tentative list of the countries and industries represented:

1. Brazil - woman worker from a domestic workers union that organizes this mainly femail, Afro-Brazilian sector of the workforce
2. Dominican Republic - "Free Trade Zone" garment worker and leader in a self-empowerment organization for women workers
3. Mexico - a worker in a maquiladora and border zone organizer in the northeastern region of Mexico (So. Texas)
4. Columbia - organizer of women workers in the country's largest labor federation
5. South Africa - former mine worker, current health and safety worker
6. India - leader in organizing women agricultural and home-based workers

A conference such as this requires the generous support and commitment of volunteers and donors. LELO is currently undertaking various fundraising efforts. If you would like to make a contribution to help LELO's international worker organizing efforts, please call 260-860-1400; e-mail: LELO@labornet.org. Or if you are interested in helping LELO with their planning and outreaching efforts to the specific communities they are targeting, please call or e-mail LELO to come to the next WTO coalition meetings.

(Interest, continued)

It's in everybody's interest to have enough material things so that they can live well. That's a prerequisite. But that's not the end. You can't just live by that. You've got to have something else that you're living for. And what that other thing is, is ultimately for everybody to decide for themselves.

Accepting Yourself, Accepting Others, and Engaging

People can be socially active for a lot of reasons. Sometimes... they're working to achieve certain goals just because they think those goals are important. That's a lot of what people do. But sometimes people do it to fulfill some kind of need. They act from motives they don't fully understand. And I think that happens in a socially activist community a lot... Sometimes people do things because they're angry and they have to express their anger in some way. And I think that was what turned me off from a lot of what was going on in the 80s... I was suspicious of some of the activists because I didn't think they were acting in particularly effective ways, and so that led me to wonder why they were doing what they were doing if it wasn't likely to achieve their goals. I was psychoanalyzing people I didn't know, but I was thinking, "these people are just trying to work out some ya-yas of their own that have nothing to do with politics, have nothing to do with the movement..."

I look at who I was when I was at Evergreen and in a lot of ways I was an asshole. Because I was angry, disillusioned, cynical. But that was a place I had to be for a while... Nobody's three-dimensional. Everybody's four-dimensional. You're not only as you are now but you are as you have been and as you will be. No person can be coherent fully, because you've got a past that contradicts your present, which contradicts your future... When you're really willing to listen to people, to engage them from where they are, try to understand their point of view, then you've convinced me that you're really working towards the goal. I think it's important for people to really pay attention to each other, and to really try to know what's going on with the other person. If you're trying to convince people to do something, you have to know who these people are, as they are now.

The Way Change Happens

There's no one message that's going to work... If you look at social action as a search for the right slogan, or the right campaign in the sense of a fairly short-term, defined effort to convince people, then it's not going to work, because social change is not a direct thing. It doesn't happen quickly... I was subjected to a lot of these campaigns over the years, about why it's important to take the bus... or why you should vote for this candidate rather than another candidate... and it didn't always take with me. In fact, a lot of times I'd agree but I wouldn't act. What changed with me is it took a lot of different things. It took personal experience, a bike trip, to see the world, the way people live in Guatemala and Mexico and to share in that life...

It's a long, tortuous journey. It's not a direct path. Getting people to see things as being in their interest requires a lot of patience, and it requires some humility. Maybe you don't know! Maybe they really do know and you don't, or maybe nobody knows, really. That's probably the truth. So you need to keep an open mind about things. But at the same time, you're going to stand for what you believe in right now, and you just need to keep putting it out there, and not expect that it's going to immediately change anything. But over the long haul, some change will result. People will be convinced partly—not entirely, but partly—by some of the things you are able to say... You just have to keep saying the same thing, even though you're tired of saying it, because you're saying it to different people, or people didn't hear you the first hundred times, or they weren't paying attention the first 200 times, or the next time you say it something will have happened in their own lives so that they'll hear what you've said, and it will make some sense to them because they've heard it before. You know, it'll be familiar. But it will have a new meaning because of the change in their own lives. Something outside of what you've been doing is going to make them hear it as familiar but also as new... That's the way it happens.

The Changes Coming

The entire environmental movement is a rear-guard action. We're not trying to improve the environment so much as we're trying to slow the destruction of the environment. It's not even stopping the destruction... It may be just slowing down the rate of increase of the destruction! So it's very much a rear-guard kind of action...

I think we're living in a twilight age. The full noon was roughly the thirty years after World War II, in this country, where there was prosperity and a sense of a real bright future... [but now] we can no longer expect that what our future holds is going to be better than our past. In fact, it's likely to be worse than our past, and that's going to make people very unsettled.

In fifty years, [I hope] that we won't have gone crazy in response to the kinds of craziness that are coming. You know, I'm not a Millenarian. I don't believe that the end of the world is coming, I don't think that things are going to change in any radical way that people can clearly identify: "It was on September 20th that the whole world changed." I think there are going to be disasters great and small the way there always are, but it's not going to be something that's going to be clearly identifiable as the end of the world as we know it. It's going to be the accumulation that leads people to realize that we do need to change...

By the end of my life, I would like to see there be a consensus about where we should be heading—not necessarily that we'll have made much progress in going there, but at least there will be some rough agreement about how we ought to change in order to build a livable planet and a livable town. By that time people will say, "Yes, global warming is a reality. It's happening. And we have to take action to reverse it." And my hope is that we'll at least have some agreements as to how to make those changes, and they'll be pretty good ones.

A Sense of Place

It's hard to be committed to really changing something unless you're committed to the community in which you live. At least that's what I've found.... One of the big things that led me to get involved in Olympia is I felt a real sense of ownership over the area.

If you want to be an activist in the Olympia area and you consider that you're really here for a short term, then there's a different role that you can play... What I would suggest for people who are short-termers is not so much to start new things but to work on old things. To work with people who are in the area, to let them lead the organizations... If you're active on the local issues, any changes you bring about are going to be here for a long time. And so, if you're not going to be here for a long time, then whatever you do is going to affect other people more than it's going to affect you. I think it's important to keep that in mind...

In my action, I'm still looking to people who've been around all those years that I was gone... I'm hesitant to take too much of a leadership role in some of the organizations because of that lack of history... Since I've only been back for two years, my goal is, first of all, to learn from what other people in the area have achieved in the ten years or so that I was gone, and to understand what was going on and to learn from them, and through that, to build up a history of my own here so that I can help to provide that continuity into the future with the social action that's going on. ♦

Labor Party and Fair vs. 'Free' Trade

Chris Stegman

We in the Labor Party recognize that the transnational corportations have the support of the two major political parties to push anti-worker trade policies, treaties and treaty organizations like NAFTA, GATT, WTO, MAI and Fast Track Authorization. The Clinton Administration has been pushing for all of the above in one form or another while at the same time glad handing labor officials/workers, environmentalists, etc.

These trade agreements and policies are designed to help multinational corporations gain access to the least expensive labor around the world in order to pit us against the poor in the developing world in a race to the bottom, competing over who will accept the lowest wages and benefits and the most miserable working conditions.

We recognize that our fight is against the anti-worker policies of multinational corporations and their beholden governments, not our brothers and sisters in the other countries or here at home and that a fair trade policy can help both workers here and abroad increase their standard of living.

We advocate the rejection of all anti-worker 'free' trade pacts. We say that our government and all corporations must comply with existing International Labor Organization conventions, especially concerning banning child labor, the right to free and independent trade unions, the right to collective bargaining, and basic occupational safety, health and environmental standards. No goods should enter the country unless the conditions of labor producing those goods adhere to ILO standards. We can't allow products to enter the U.S. that have been produced in ways that poison workers, or pollute the air, land, and water.

The enforcement policy of the new fair trade rules makes the corporations, as well as the government, responsible and liable so that the corporation that owns the product as it attempts to cross our borders would be made liable for how it was produced, liable for the conditions of all the production and subcontracting that went into the product. Not only would the goods be confiscated, but also the corporations involved would be subject to stiff fines.

These new rules which we advocate must allow working people to have the right to act so that we can become directly involved in enforcement. Any group of workers or citizens should have the right to investigate, present evidence and petition to remove goods in violation.

It is our intention to further develop the details of a truly fair trade policy and wage a vigorous campaign of public hearings, education among our constituent bodies, and intensive training program for our members and the community at large.

The newly formed South Sound Labor Party organizing committee is sponsoring a free public forum on Thursday, November 9th at 7pm at the Olympia Community Center auditorium featuring local speakers from the labor movement, community groups and TESC Labor Education Center. Sarah Ryan, Labor Studies teacher at TESC will facilitate the panel discussion with a discussion and refreshments following.

All are welcome. ♦

We recognize that our fight is against the anti-worker policies of multinational corporations and their beholden governments, not our brothers and sisters in the other countries or here at home and that a fair trade policy can help both workers here and abroad increase their standard of living.

UFCW vs. Wal-Mart, Round One

Kevin Layden

I attended a Steward Leadership Summit held by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) of Washington State in Bothel on October 6. I am Shop Steward at the West Olympia Safeway and am a member of UFCW local 367. Speaking at this, the second annual UFCW Steward Conference, were Christine Gregoire, Washington's Attorney General, and Deborah Senn, Insurance Commissioner, as well as various members of UFCW Local and International leadership, including UFCW International President, Doug Dority.

The UFCW is an AFL-CIO affiliated Union, the largest organization of retail workers in North America, with 1.4 million members. Some of us work in nursing facilities, some in food processing plants, but, by and large, the majority work in retail stores like Safeway.

While Christine Gregoire mused aloud regarding what she could do about youth violence, and Deborah Senn made her pitch for the UFCW's support in her campaign against Slade Gorton in 2000, Doug Dority, UFCW International President brought the most compelling issue to the conference: WAL-MART. Last December 3 the AFL-CIO launched an all out attack on Wal-Mart. AFL-CIO President John Sweeney led a union caravan of 900 to march on Wal-Mart headquarters in Bentonville, Arkansas. Doug Dority was there as were a number of UFCW members from Washington to protest the opening of so-called Neighborhood Market stores, modeled after the traditional grocery store and intended to compete with the Safeways and the Albertsons'.. From Bentonville, the AFL-CIO intended to do education and outreach, targeting existing Wal-Mart Supercenters and Sam's Clubs and especially new Neighborhood Markets as they opened.

On September 15 in Bentonville, county Judge Don Huffman issued an order to block the UFCW from distributing any information at any Wal-Mart store in any state. At the same time that the UFCW was leading the protest at Wal-Mart headquarters, this same judge had to recuse himself in another case involving Wal-Mart and Amazon.com. You see, Judge Huffman has over $500,000 in Wal-Mart stock. The UFCW has responded by filing a Notice of Removal in U.S. District Court in an effort to force Wal-Mart to argue its case in federal court.

Chances are you have heard some of the criticisms of Wal-Mart. As the largest employer in America (over 900,000 "associates") and largest retailer in the world (137 billion in sales, $3.5 billion in profits in 1998), it has a great deal of power. Experience has shown that it uses this power with one over-riding motivation: PROFIT. No surprise there; this is the land of opportunity after all. The surprise, at least on my part, has been at the consistent and pervading ruthlessness with which it pursues this profit, and, beyond that, the extent to which Wal-Mart's practices effect my country, my state, and my family. I had heard the accusations of forced labor in offshore garment facilities, of fake brand-name products, of harassment and discrimination claims. What really grabbed my attention was how Wal-Mart treats its workers. For example, the average Wal-Mart employee makes about $11,700 a year, nearly $2,000 below the poverty line for a family of three. Only 38% of Wal-Mart employees have company-provided health coverage. Wal-Mart executives are downright proud of shifting the cost of insuring its employees to taxpayers via state and federal programs.

Chances are you have heard some of the criticisms of Wal-Mart, the largest employer in America and largest retailer in the world. Experience has shown that it uses this power with one over-riding motivation: PROFIT.

A company like Wal-Mart can handle legal claims of sweatshop labor and harassment. But who would shop there if they knew what it was doing to their community? An anecdote shared at the Stewards Conference by Marc Perrone, UFCW International Vice President drove home the threat of Wal-Mart. He said that he had talked with a former Wal-Mart store assistant manager in his home state of Texas. This woman had lived in this town all her life. Her job as assistant manager was to buy products from local businesses to resell at Wal-Mart at lower prices. After the local shop went out of business, Wal-Mart's price for the same product went back up. It is not unheard of for a Wal-Mart to bleed a town dry of money, close-up shop, and move on to the next town.

It would be easy for me to feel powerless in the face of the monster that is Wal-Mart. I mean, what can I do, alone to change anyone's mind about this company. Of course, I refuse to shop there. But, I can also speak up, share my views with consumers, reach out to Wal-Mart employees, let my political representatives know how I feel about the situation. As a Union member I get a livable wage, benefits, job security, and an organization that is watching out for my best interests as opposed to the profit motive of my employer. ♦

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CAW Unstrike at Starbucks in B.C.

Local 3000

We are 120 members of the Canadian Auto Workers Local 3000. We work at 12 unionized Starbucks stores: 11 in Vancouver and 1 in Westbank, British Columbia. Our 12 unionized stores are the only unionized units out of Starbucks' some 2,200 stores worldwide. Our economic impact within the Starbucks empire is obviously limited. But with your help our public relations impact can be significant. We are truly in a David and Goliath battle for the hearts and minds of the public in our dispute with the worlds' largest coffee retailer. That's why we are UnStriking at this time. The issues on the bargaining table are very basic: fair wages, earned sick leave, scheduling of work and training procedures.

What the heck is an UnStrike? By now most of you are asking 'what the heck is an UnStrike?'. Well...while legally meeting the definition of a strike under provincial labour law, unlike a traditional strike, in an UnStrike we continue to work, get paid and provide service to our customers, but with a difference. In order to draw attention to our dispute we are refusing to adhere to the Starbucks dress code. Instead we are wearing what we please, including one member who served customers wearing a dressing gown and bedroom slippers, others with brilliantly coloured hair, tattoos and more. And 'wearing what we please' includes our 'Warbucks Coffee' buttons and t-shirts. The buttons and the shirt front bear the 'Warbucks Coffee' logo in the top right of this letter. The shirt backs bear red lettering that reads "I didn't have any sick leave so I phoned in dead. Now my boss wants a Coroners' Certificate before I come back to work". We think a little humour goes a long way.

As well we are handing out leaflets to the public, in the stores and on the streets, similar in tone to this letter, with an addressed and postage paid tear-off addressed to Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz *(see sample letter to right)*.

We achieved our historic first collective in July 1997 and made some significant gains in the areas of seniority as a key factor in scheduling of hours of work and vacations, language to maximize the length of shifts through the work week, anti-harassment language, a grievance-arbitration procedure and across the board wage increases that totaled $1.00 over the life of the agreement. Starbucks' response after our historic agreement was to extend the monetary gains to all non-union stores in Canada to undermine employee interest in unionizing - 'all the gain without the pain', or so Starbucks would have people believe.

Starbucks is again resisting union gains at the bargaining table this time round as we bargain our second collective agreement. They want to avoid having to give improvements to non-union stores 1) because they don't want to have to pay, and 2) they don't want to give the union additional credibility in the eyes of non-union Baristas. They fear that if they do more Baristas will see the sense in building a stronger base of strength to bargain against Starbucks. In effect we are having to bargain for all Starbucks Baristas, union and non-union alike, on the strength of our 12 units. It is a tough struggle but one we feel is worth fighting, but we need your help.

Our fight for a living wage and earned sick pay is a small but nevertheless important part of the struggle to elevate the service sector and strengthen our society.

A Living Wage Not "Nickels and Dimes" Starbucks has offered "nickels and dimes" in wages - less than the rate of inflation. Despite Starbucks' carefully constructed public image of 'the-small--liberal-enlightened-employer', what we see at the bargaining table is a heavy dose of good old fashioned corporate arrogance and greed. Our income is far from 'enlightened' or 'liberal'. Most of us work part-time, average around $8.60 per hour and take home less than $800 per month. Even our highest paid members, Shift Supervisors, take home about $1,000.00 per month. We need a living wage not "nickels and dimes"!

Salaried managers have a comprehensive sick leave plan. Hourly employees have no paid sick leave at all. When we get sick, even for a day, we are scrambling to to buy groceries and make the month's rent. Most of us are economically compelled to work when we are sick. In saying NO to earned sick leave Starbucks is really saying to us 'Hey! Get sick on your own time 'partner'!".Some 'partnership'. We need earned sick leave proportional to hours worked - the more hours worked, the more sick leave earned.

Phenomenal Revenues- Phenomenal Growth Starbucks may be offering us just "nickels and dimes" but their 'bottom line' is quite another story. This Spring, Starbucks raised prices on blended beverages as much as 25%. For the 3 months ending June 27th net revenues increased 27% to $424 million ($US) in just 13 weeks, over the same period last year. Through 1999, on average, a new Starbucks store opened every 16 hours of every day of every week to bring the world wide total to about 2,200 stores. Starbucks is poised to earn well in excess of $1 billion in revenues this year. Virtually all of Starbucks' phenomenal grow has been financed out of phenomenal revenues.

The hard work of hourly Baristas, both union and non-union, have helped make Starbucks the tremendous financial success story that it is. Hourly employees deserve genuine respect and to share in that success.

Elevating the Service Sector The nature of work has changed dramatically over the last several decades. As we approach the new millennium there are relatively fewer jobs in the resource, manufacturing and construction sectors and relatively more jobs in the service sectors. The reasons are varied: advanced technology, exploitation of cheap off-shore labour, free trade and more. With some exceptions, service sector jobs generally pay lower wages, provides fewer benefits and generates lower tax revenues than is the case in the more traditional sectors of our economy. This directly impacts service sector workers. It also indirectly impacts the whole of our society.

As more of our population is employed in the service sectors we need to consciously and systematically elevate both the earning power and social status of service sector workers. If we fail to do this we will erode the collective purchasing power which drives our economy. We will undermine the our collective capacity to provide the high quality public services we want and need for ourselves and our families. We will reduce our capacity to ensure our environment is protected and restored. In the end we will all lose. It may sound simple, but it is true: good jobs are critical to a healthy society.

Our fight for a living wage and earned sick pay is a small but nevertheless important part of the struggle to elevate the service sector and strengthen our society. We hope you agree.

Log on to our CAW National Union web site at www.caw.ca and check out the Starbucks UnStrike prompt which will allow you send an email to Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz. You can also check out lots of other CAW information in text and images, real audio and real video as well as lots of good links to other progressive sites. ♦

Send Starbucks A Message

Dear Friends:

We need your help to win our CAW UnStrike against Starbucks Coffee which started October 4th, 1999. You can send Starbucks' CEO Howard Schultz an e-mail or fill out this provided form letter.

Howard Schultz, President and CEO,
Starbucks Coffee Corporation
2401 Utah Ave. South
Seattle, Washington, 98124
tel: (206) 447-1575
fax: (206) 447-3432
email: hschultz@starbucks.com

Dear Mr. Schultz:

I am writing to let you know that I support the members of CAW Local 3000 in their UnStrike against Starbucks Coffee Corporation to achieve a renewed collective agreement inclusive of fair wages and earned sick leave. Your corporate success depends on your employees. Please show you care.

Sincerely,

cc:
Christian Codrington,
Manager Partner Relations - Western Canada
Starbucks Vancouver Offices, 200
128 West 6th Ave.
Vancouver, B.C., V5Y 1K6
tel: (604) 708-9233
fax: (604) 708-2216
email: ccodring@starbucks.com

CAW Local 3000
Starbucks UnStrikers
326 12th St.
New Westminster, B.C., V3M 4H6
tel: (604) 526-3038
toll free: 1 800 862-3088
fax: (604) 524-6762
email: c/o cawbc1@caw.ca

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In the U.S.A

Race, Rights, and Police Brutality

Amnesty International

Recent federal and local initiatives to combat police brutality in the USA have not fully addressed the problem of racism in policing, a new Amnesty International report reveals.

The report — USA: Race, Rights and Police Brutality (AI Index: AMR 51/147/99) — shows that over-aggressive tactics, including unjustified police shootings, excessive use of force, misuse of police dogs and harassment, continue across the country with alarming regularity.

Amnesty International's current campaign on human rights in the USA, together with efforts by local organizations in the country, has helped push the issue of police brutality to the forefront of a national agenda for police reform.

• **Ethnic and other groups** - like the mentally ill, homeless, gay or transgendered individuals—are particularly affected. In most recent cases of unjustified police shootings, for example, the victims have been African American or other minorities, and some were children:

• **California — August 1999**. In an early morning narcotics raid, a SWAT team burst into the home of a Mexican immigrant family and shot dead an unarmed elderly man, Mario Paz, in his bedroom. He was reportedly shot twice in the back. No drugs were found in the raid and a different name from that of the residents was on the search warrant.

• **New Jersey — June 1999**. An unarmed African American was shot dead in New Jersey, after he tried to manoeuvre his car out of the way of two police cars which had boxed him in after a car chase. The officers fired 27 shots at his vehicle, and a female passenger was wounded on her leg. The case — which remains under investigation— is the latest in a series of questionable police shootings of unarmed motorists in New Jersey.

• **Illinois - June 1999**. La Tanya Haggerty, a 19-year-old black girl, was shot dead when officers mistook the cell-phone in her hand for a gun.

"Race and police brutality are inextricably linked in the USA, but there are further problems," points out Angela Wright, Amnesty International researcher on the USA. "The mentally ill, the homeless and gay people are often harassed or subjected to undue force by police in some areas."

Further cases include:

• **Miami**— May 1999. Lewis Rivera, a homeless man eating in a shopping mall was chased by five or six police officers who, according to witnesses, sprayed him with pepper spray, kicked him, threw him to the ground and bound his hands and feet before dragging him to a police car. He died less than an hour later in a police cell.

• **New York City — November 1998.** Two police officers responding to an emergency medical assistance call in the Bronx are alleged to have attacked transsexual JoLea Lamor. According to witnesses, the officers verbally abused her and pushed her against the wall after discovering that she was a transsexual. A large number of officers entered her apartment and maced family members.

While a growing number of police departments in the USA are subject to some form of external, civilian review, many continue to lack effective oversight. Police internal investigations into shootings or other use of force remain for the most part shrouded in secrecy, and all too often police officers involved in questionable shootings or use of excessive force are exonerated by criminal or administrative inquiries or receive a token punishment.

International standards provide that force should be proportionate to the threat faced, and that firearms should be used only in self-defense, or in the defense others against an imminent threat of death or serious injury. Dozens of cases similar to those above occur annually in the USA, causing devastating loss to the families and costly payouts by cities in civil lawsuits.

The Amnesty International report offers 15 key recommendations to the federal government and local and state authorities to combat police abuse, including incorporation of international human rights standards into police codes of conduct and training, improving police accountability, and the collection of reliable national data on deaths in custody and police shootings — information which is disturbingly lacking in the USA.

Amnesty International's current campaign on human rights in the USA, together with efforts by local organizations in the country, has helped push the issue of police brutality to the forefront of a national agenda for police reform. The Clinton Administration has taken several important steps this year to address the problem, particularly as regards the treatment or racial minorities.

"Nevertheless," says Angela Wright, "the 15 recommendations suggested by Amnesty International — together with a greater degree of transparency in the investigation of complaints of police brutality — should be urgently implemented."

"As President Clinton recently said at a national summit on police brutality: 'We don't have to choose between keeping safe and treating people right'.

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, WC1X 8DJ, London, United Kingdom

Florida Prison Guards Murder Inmate

William Van Poyck

On July 17, 1999, my friend and codefendant, Frank Valdes, was stomped and beaten to death in his X-Wing cell by a large group of Florida State Prison (FSP) guards. As FSP prisoners know only too well, this beating was uncommon only because Frank actually died. And, but for a series of events which led to the Governor becoming personally involved, this murder would have been covered up just as so many other beatings are. Nine guards (a captain, five sergeants and three CO's) have been suspended. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is investigating and the state attorney has publicly labeled it "a clear case of murder." Search warrants were executed and evidence seized from the guard's homes. Charges are expected to be brought. Now, the FBI has joined the case, expanding their probe to the entire Florida DOC, "based upon the large volume of beating complaints they have received prior to and subsequent to" Frank's murder.

Predictably, the guards' attorney, while admitting that "a terrific fight" occurred in that cell (where guards used three cans of pepper spray, a tear gas grenade and an electric stun shield on Frank), has claimed that Frank's injuries were all self inflicted. Autopsy results showed that every single rib in his body was broken and his testicles were crushed. Boot marks were clearly visible on Frank's body. The attorney cynically maintains that the ribs were broken when guards valiantly performed CPR for 40 minutes. Also predictably, the attorney has labeled Frank "an animal" a "serious troublemaker" and an "extremely violent disciplinary problem."

Far from being an "animal," Frank was an intelligent, thoughtful man, who never hesitated to stand up and speak his mind when he witnessed the physical abuses here. Frank's outspokenness earned him the wrath of these guards, who targeted him with contrived disciplinary reports in order to keep him isolated on X-Wing. This was not the first time Frank was beaten, and his life had been threatened on more than one occasion. On July 17, 1999, Frank's refusal to be cowed and intimidated cost him his life when on that morning he once again voiced objections to the prisoners around him being beaten.

Make no mistake about it, this was not an "isolated incident." Briefly now, the public spotlight is shining on FSP and the long-standing physical abuses going on here. But it will all be for naught unless fundamental, systemic changes are made, both in attitudes and policies. Staff at FSP, like all organizations, take their cue from the top down. For the past 18 months staff and prisoners alike have heard the message, loud and clear, that

(Continued next page)

Books To Prisoner Schedule

• Open drop in work/training sessions every Thurs. 3-9 pm in the back of the business formerly known as Bulldog News. *Training takes 1 hour. Once you are trained you can work anytime we are open.*

• **BTP Volunteer Potluck** - 3rd Sun. of the month, 3 pm at 116 E. 4th Ave, Olympia

• Turn in Bayview and Ralph's receipts. B to P receives 1%. Please send to the address below.

• **Save UPC code from Western Family Products &** send to B to P, 116 E 4th Ave, Olympia, WA 98501

Inmates — All correspondence to Books to Prisoners *must* go through the main branch:

Books to Prisoners
Left Bank Books
92 Pike Street
Seattle WA 98101

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Because of the huge number of letters Books for Prisoners-Olympia Support Group receives each month and its limited resources, requests often wait many months to be filled. Thousands of letters still remain in boxes. Your help and generosity are urgently needed.

If we desire individuals in this country's prisons to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic, then we too need to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic. We need to "walk the talk." Please donate your time, money or books.

In greatest demand are:

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Frequently requested are:

African-American, Chicano/Latino, and Native American history and progressive U.S. history.

Please donate:

• Any other good books

• Stamps and stamp money

• Money for tape, wrapping paper, and copying

Please bring donations of books to the Books to Prisoner-Olympia office at the business formerly known as Bulldog New at 116 4th Ave in downtown Olympia

Please make checks payable to Books to Prisoners.

Hours: Currently, the business hours are from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm daily. After hours donations possible by appointment. Please call the message phone below and leave a message.

Address: Books to Prisoners , 116 4th Ave, Olympia WA 98501

Message Phone: (360)943-2375

(Prison Murder, continued)

beatings are acceptable, encouraged and will not be investigated. This consistent failure to investigate complaints of beatings goes right to the DOC central office in Tallahassee. And with prisoners' access to the courts severely restricted by state and federal legislation, combined with an increasingly hostile attitude by the judiciary towards "prisoners' rights," prisoners have no real recourse or remedy within the system.

Those competent, professional correctional officers within the ranks who are not down with the beating program clearly see which way the political winds blow, and they realize that any objections thereto are detrimental to their careers. They remain silent, or quit. Thus, that core group of undisciplined guards who thrive on these, and other illegal activities, end up running the prison by default, being promoted for their deeds and spreading the virus further. Unchecked, as with any sickness, such actions lead to total takeover of the host system. This, of course, is commonly known and understood by prisoners. A generally apathetic public understands little and cares even less. Yet unless the public, through their elected officials, demands more accountability, and begins to question the entire existing system and structure, prisons will continue to be powder kegs reminiscent of the 1960's and 1970's, with predictable and inevitable results.

William Van Poyck is a jailhouse lawyer currently sentenced to death at FSP in Starke, Florida.

This article is reprinted with permission from Prison Legal News. Prison Legal News *can be reached at PMB 148, 2400 NW 80th Street, Seattle, Washington 98117 or webmaster@prisonlegalnews.org•*

Briefs, cont.

CSF has granted $45,217 since forming in 1987.

The deadline for complete grant application is Friday, November 5, 1999. Grant presentations to the Sustaining Fund Board will be on Saturday, November 20. Grant criteria and application forms are available on request from Traditions:Fair Trade (5th and Waters St, Olympia, or by writing CSF, 2103 Harrison NW, Suite 2715, Olympia, WA 98502.

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition

WROC's planning and organizing meetings take place the**first Tuesday of each month from 5:30pm until 8pm at First United Methodist Church**, 5th and Boundary, downtown. WROC's support and information meeting is the third Tuesday of the month at Evergreen Vista Apartments, on the West Side of Olympia. Dinner and free childcare are provided at all meetings, and people can call 352-9716 for more info.

Dance O' Dance

Open invitation from "Dance O' Dance" to any age, any style dancers to appear LIVE on public-access television in Thurston county on the Second Friday at 8pm (November 12, December 10). Reruns on Fridays NOW at 8, but Wednesdays STILL at 4pm. "Dance O' Dance" is in its fourth season on TCTV.

Dancers should arrive at TCTV studio "A", 440 Yauger way, off Mud Bay, for instructions, warm-ups, & refreshments. Contact the producer for more details: Justin B. Wright, 753-9665, or e-mail <justinb@writeme.com>

So-called "Partial-Birth" Abortion Ban passes Senate

Late Thursday, October 21st, the Senate voted 63-34 in favor of S. 1692, the so-called "Partial-Birth" Abortion Ban. After two days of grueling, exhausting debate, during which the author of the bill, Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA), called life-saving physicians who provide abortion services "executioners", 12 Democrats joined with a vast majority of Republicans to pass this hateful piece of legislation.

Vote on S. 1692, so-called "Partial-Birth" Abortion Act of 1999

Aye = anti-choice, Nay = pro-choice

AYE: 63 (Gorton)

NAY: 34 (Murray)

M-16

How I truly never want to be
the people who are scaring me -
Those faceless few among
the mindless many - Amerikkka
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SEE PAGE 2

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Works In Progress wants to thank everyone who helped out and/or came to our benefit screening last month.

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Holly House
Sean Savage
Olympia Film Society
Redd

Teresa Wang & TESC
Women of Color Coalition
Phyllis Gallegos
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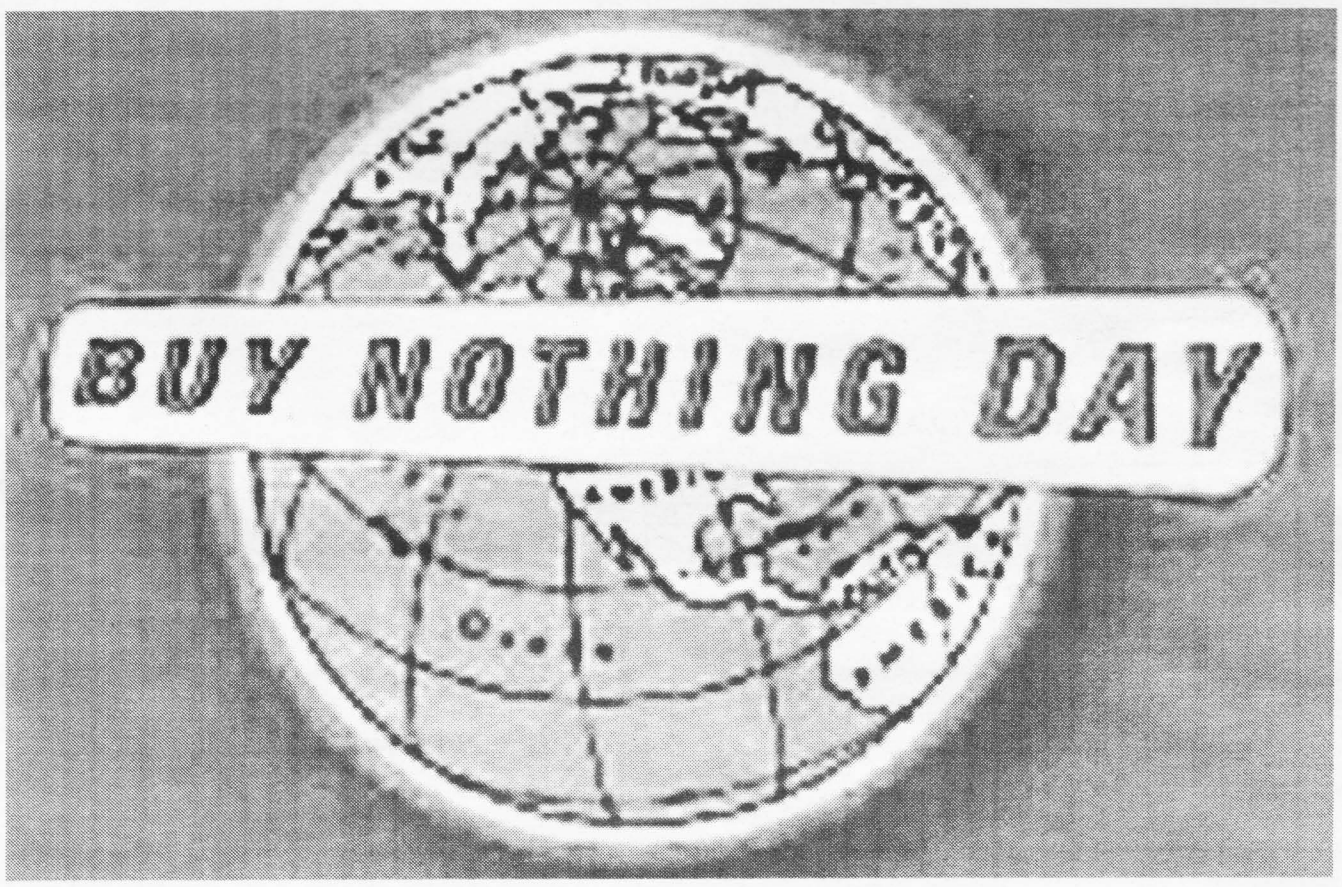
"Race Sensitive" And Proud Of It

6+7
Reply to "Revolution" & Revolution II

8+9
Mumia Update & Re-Issued Poster

12
UFCW vs. Wal-Mart

14
Race & Police Brutality



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